

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 8, 2007. Claims 28 to 31 are pending in the application, with Claims 22 to 27 having been cancelled, and Claims 28 to 31 substituted therefor. Claims 28 and 30 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 22 to 27 were objected to based on alleged informalities. Claims 22 to 27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer or subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of the objection. Thus, the objection is seen to be obviated.

Claims 22 to 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,594,672 (Hicks) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,438,359 (Aoki). Claims 22 to 27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter and without conceding the correctness of their rejection. Thus, the rejection is seen to be obviated.

The present invention generally concerns an electronic camera that can connect to a computer. The electronic camera includes a switch that is turned on by a user or the computer, and a control unit that controls the electronic camera. Among its many features, the present invention provides that if the control unit determines that a power shut-off command is received from software on the computer which needs the electronic camera, the supply of power from a battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit is stopped, wherein the power shut-off command is sent from the software to the electronic camera when execution of the software is finished.

Referring specifically to the claims, newly-added independent Claim 28 is directed to an electronic camera that can connect to a computer. The electronic camera

comprises a switch, which is turned on by a user or the computer, and a control unit, which controls the electronic camera. The electronic camera also comprises a power control unit, which starts supplying power from a battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit if the switch is turned on. If the switch is turned on by the computer, the electronic camera operates as a peripheral device for the computer. If the switch is turned on by the computer and the control unit then determines that a predetermined request is received from the computer, the control unit continues supplying power from the battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit. If the switch is turned on by the computer and the control unit then determines that the predetermined request is not received from the computer, the control unit stops supplying power from the battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit. If the control unit determines that a power shut-off command is received from software on the computer which needs the electronic camera, the control unit stops supplying power from the battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit, the power shut-off command being sent from the software to the electronic camera when execution of the software is finished.

Newly-added independent Claim 30 is a method claim which is seen to generally correspond with Claim 28.

The art applied against the cancelled claims is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the invention of the subject application. In particular, Hicks and Aoki are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature that if a control unit determines that a power shut-off command is received from software on a computer which needs an electronic camera, the supply of power from a battery connected to the electronic camera to

the control unit is stopped, wherein the power shut-off command is sent from the software to the electronic camera when execution of the software is finished.

As understood by applicant, Hicks is seen to disclose that the supply of power to a peripheral device is based on whether activity is shown on a computer I/O port. See Hicks, column 1, lines 60 to 66. However, Hicks is not seen to disclose or suggest that if a control unit determines that a power shut-off command is received from software on a computer which needs an electronic camera, the supply of power from a battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit is stopped. Moreover, Hicks is not seen to disclose or suggest that the power shut-off command is sent from the software to the electronic camera when execution of the software is finished.

Aoki is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Hicks. In particular, column 4, lines 14 to 20 of Aoki is seen to disclose that when a camera is connected to a personal computer, the power supply to a power circuit from a battery is automatically switched to the power supply from a power source of the personal computer. However, Aoki is not seen to disclose or suggest that if a control unit determines that a power shut-off command is received from software on a computer which needs an electronic camera, the supply of power from a battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit is stopped, wherein the power shut-off command is sent from the software to the electronic camera when execution of the software is finished.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, newly-added independent Claims 28 and 30 are believed to be allowable over the art applied against the cancelled claims.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the art applied against the cancelled claims for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Finally, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner conduct a personal or telephonic interview with Applicant's representative regarding this case, before the Examiner takes this filing into consideration. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's representative as indicated below.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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